



[7590-01-P]

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-1050; NRC-2016-0231]

### Interim Storage Partners Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Draft environmental impact statement; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Interim Storage Partners' (ISP's) license application to construct and operate a consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and Greater-Than Class C (GTCC) waste, along with a small quantity of mixed oxide fuel. The proposed CISF would be located on an approximately 130-hectare (320-acre) site, within the approximately 5,666-hectare (14,000-acre) Waste Control Specialists (WCS) site in Andrews County, Texas. The proposed action is the issuance of an NRC license authorizing a CISF to store up to 5,000 metric tons of uranium (MTUs) [5,500 short tons] of SNF for a license period of 40 years. ISP plans to subsequently request amendments to the license to store an additional 5,000 MTU for each of seven expansion phases of the proposed CISF (a total of eight phases), to be completed over the course of 20 years. The proposed facility could eventually store up to 40,000 MTUs [44,000 short tons] of SNF.

**DATES:** The NRC staff will hold public meetings on the draft EIS. The public meeting details will be announced in the near future. The staff will present the preliminary findings and receive public comments during these transcribed public meetings.

In reaction to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the NRC staff is providing an extended period of time for members of the public to submit comments on the draft

EIS. Members of the public are invited to submit comments by **September 4, 2020**.

Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received by this date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2016-0231**. Address questions about NRC Docket IDs to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail: [Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SECTION** of this document.

- **Mail comments to:** Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

- **E-mail comments to:** [WCS\\_CISF\\_EIS@nrc.gov](mailto:WCS_CISF_EIS@nrc.gov).

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Park, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-6954; e-mail: [James.Park@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Park@nrc.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments**

#### **A. Obtaining Information**

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2016-0231** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2016-0231**. An electronic copy of the draft EIS will be posted under Docket ID **NRC-2016-0231** as supporting material.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The draft EIS is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML20122A220.

- **Project Webpage:** Information related to the ISP CISF project can be accessed on the NRC's ISP CISF Web page at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/waste-control-specialist.html>.

- **Public Libraries:** A copy of the draft EIS will be made accessible at the following public libraries:

- Eunice Public Library, 1003 Ave. N, Eunice, NM 88231
- Hobbs Public Library, 509 N Shipp St., Hobbs, NM 88240
- Andrews County Library, 109 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Andrews, TX 79714

A weblink to the electronic copy of the draft EIS will be placed on the Hobbs Public

Library website, <http://www.hobbspublishing.org/>, under “News & Updates” on that site.

## B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID **NRC-2016-0231** in your comment submission. Written comments may be submitted during the draft EIS comment period as described in the **ADDRESSES** section of the document.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

## II. Discussion

The NRC is issuing for public comment the draft EIS for an application from ISP requesting a license that would authorize ISP to construct and operate a CISF for SNF and GTCC waste, along with a small quantity of mixed-oxide fuel, which are collectively referred to in the EIS as SNF, and composed primarily of spent uranium-based fuel.

The draft EIS for ISP’s license application includes the NRC staff’s preliminary analysis that evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the No-Action alternative to the proposed action. After comparing the impacts of the proposed action to those of the No-Action alternative, the NRC staff, in accordance with

the requirements in part 51 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, recommends the proposed action , which is the issuance of an NRC license to ISP to construct and operate a CISF at the proposed location to temporarily store up to 5,000 MTUs [5,500 short tons] of SNF for a licensing period of 40 years. This recommendation is based on (i) the ISP license application, which includes an environmental report and supplemental documents, and ISP's responses to the NRC staff's requests for additional information; (ii) the NRC staff's consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, local agencies, and input from other stakeholders; (iii) the NRC staff's independent staff review; and (iv) the NRC staff's assessments provided in the EIS.

Dated: May 4, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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